

Applicants : Niall R. Lynam and John O. Lindahl
Serial No. : 10/054,633
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REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's review of the specification, claims, and drawings. In light of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application. No new matter has been entered.

Status of the Claims:

Claims 130-184, 251, and 252 are presently pending in the application.

Claims 1-129 and 185-250 have been cancelled herein. Claims 130-184 have been considered on the merits.

Title:

The title has been amended to read:

VEHICLE LED LIGHTING SYSTEM

Abstract:

The Examiner objects to the Abstract as exceeding the 150 word limit. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the Abstract, which is now believed to overcome the objection by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner's objections to the Abstract be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Drawings:

Applicants have submitted under separate cover a proposed drawing correction, to correct the discrepancy noted by the Examiner. In addition, the specification has been amended to provide more consistent terminology.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner's objections to the drawings be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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Claim Rejections:

The Examiner rejects Claims 130-138, 140-143, 146-148, 152-158, 163-179, 183, and 184 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,671,996 to Bos et al. or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Bos in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,676,668 to Collins et al.

The Examiner rejects Claims 139, 144, 145, 149-151, 159, 160-162, and 180-182 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bos in view of Collins.

Applicants respectfully traverse. Notwithstanding, Applicants have amended Claim 130 to more clearly define Applicants' invention, which now calls for:

An improved lighting system for a vehicle, said vehicle having a battery/ignition voltage in a range of about 12 volts nominal to 42 volts nominal, said lighting system comprising:
an accessory module assembly adapted for attachment to an interior portion of a vehicle;
said accessory module assembly configured to illuminate an area inside the vehicle when said accessory module assembly is attached to said interior portion of the vehicle;
said accessory module assembly comprising a single non-incandescent light source, said single light source comprising a single high-intensity power light emitting diode emitting light for illuminating the area with a luminous efficiency of at least about 1 lumen/watt when said single high-intensity power light emitting diode is operated and wherein said single high-intensity power light emitting diode is operated at a forward current of at least about 100 milliamps and a forward operating voltage less than about 5 volts; and
a voltage conversion element for converting the battery/ignition voltage of the vehicle to the forward operating voltage of the light emitting diode.

Applicants respectfully urge that neither Bos nor Collins discloses or suggests the claimed combination. For example, neither Bos nor Collins discloses or suggests an accessory module assembly which comprises a single high intensity power light emitting diode for illuminating an area inside a vehicle when the accessory module assembly is attached to the interior portion of the vehicle with a luminous efficiency of at least about 1

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lumen per watt when the diode is operated and wherein the diode is operated at a forward current of at least about 100 millamps and a forward operating voltage of less than about 5 volts in combination with a voltage conversion element for converting the battery ignition voltage of the vehicle to the forward operating voltage of the light emitting diode.

With respect to Claim 251, Claim 251 depends from amended Claim 130 and further calls for a heat dissipation element that is adapted to dissipate heat from the single high intensity power light emitting diode. Applicants respectfully urge that neither Bos nor Collins discloses or suggests the claimed combination.

With respect to Claim 140, which now depends from Claim 251, Claim 140 further calls for the heat dissipation element to include a reflective surface for reflecting light emitted by the emitting diode. Applicants respectfully urge that neither Bos nor Collins discloses or suggests the claimed combination.

With respect to Claim 141, Claim 141 calls for the accessory module to include a light directing element, which directs light emitted from the light emitting diode toward the area of the vehicle. Applicants respectfully urge that neither Bos nor Collins discloses or suggests the claimed combination.

With respect to Claims 142-149, 165, and 172-175, Claims 142-149, 165, and 172-175 ultimately depend from Claim 251 and are, therefore, patentably distinguishable over Bos alone or in combination with Collins or any other reference of record for at least the reasons set forth above in reference to Claim 251.

With reference to Claim 176, Claim 176, which ultimately depends from amended Claim 130, further calls for the accessory module assembly to include a heat dissipation element that is adapted to dissipate heat from the light emitting diode. Applicants respectfully urge that Claim 176 and its dependent claims, namely Claims 177 and 179, are patentably distinguishable over Bos alone or in combination with Collins or any other

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reference or record for at least the reasons set forth above in reference to Claims 130 and 251.

Claims 131-139, 150-164, 166-171, 176-184, and 252 ultimately depend from amended Claim 130 and, thus, incorporate the same limitations as amended Claim 130.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully urge that Claims 131-139, 150-164, 166-171, 176-184, and 252 are patentably distinguishable over Bos in view of Collins for at least the reasons set forth above.

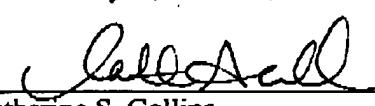
Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claim 130 and its dependent claims, Claims 131-184, 251, and 252, are patentably distinguishable over Bos alone or in combination with Collins or any other reference or record.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and a Notice of Allowance of all claims, namely Claims 130-184, 251, and 252.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (616) 975-5506.

Respectfully submitted,
NIALL R. LYNAM ET AL.
By: Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhardt, LLP

December 8, 2004
Date



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : Ismael Negron
Confirm. No. : 5792
Applicants : Niall R. Lynam and John O. Lindahl
Serial No. : 10/054,633
Filing Date : January 22, 2002
Group Art : 2875
For : IMPROVED VEHICULAR LIGHTING SYSTEM

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

TRANSMITTAL OF CORRECTED FORMAL DRAWINGS

In response to the Office Action mailed September 8, 2004, Applicants request that the enclosed one sheet of corrected formal drawings be entered in the above-identified application.

REMARKS

Applicants request that this 1 sheet of corrected formal drawings be filed in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

NIALL R. LYNAM, ET AL

By: Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhart, LLP

December 8, 2004
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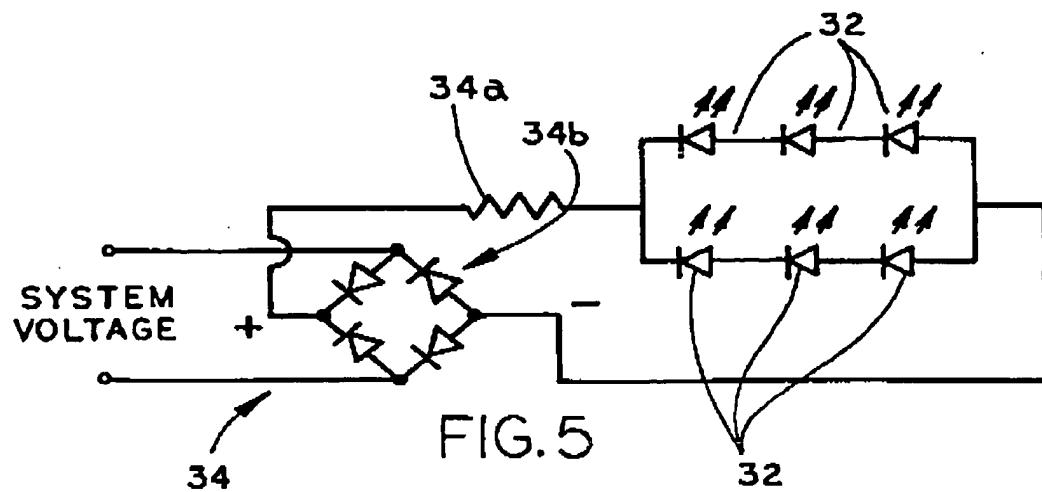


FIG.5

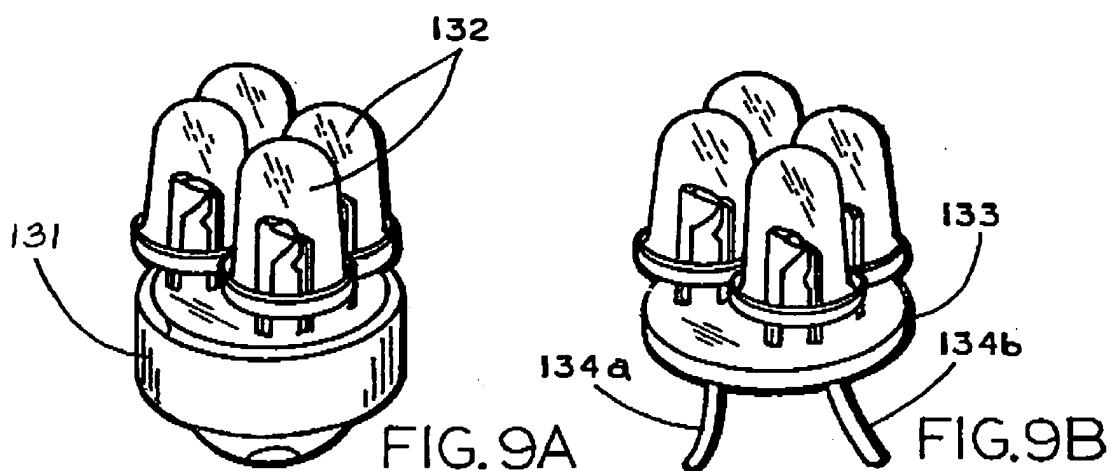


FIG.9A

FIG.9B

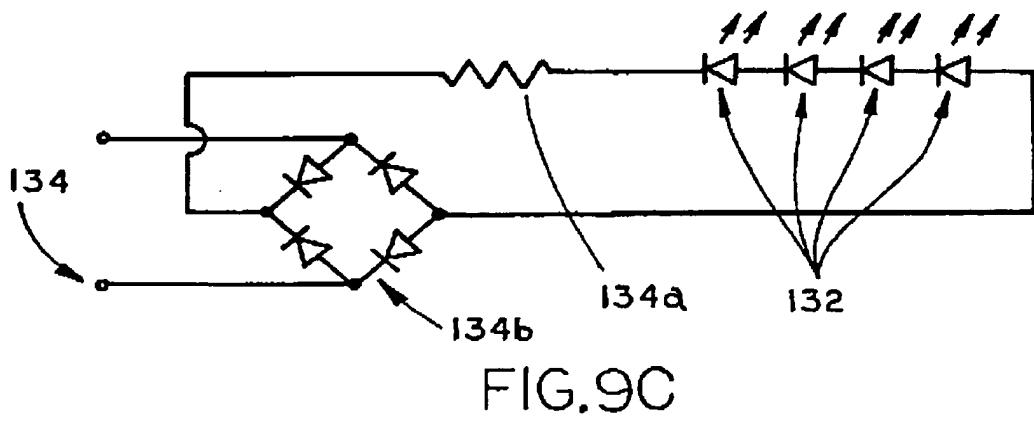


FIG.9C

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